Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee

Meeting purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- filter information and prepare it for the Council
- set the framework, calendar and agenda for the Council
- identify and make recommendations for the appropriate utilization of state resources
- consider action on the recommendations of the Council
- set priorities for development of the Early ACCESS system
- implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement
- transact all regular business of the Council between meetings

Date, time, and

place

Date: July 23, 2008 Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 2 South/Conference Call

Attendees

Troy McCarthy, Kelly Hancock, Brian Wilkes, Jeff Anderson (For Mary

Nelson), Jane Borst, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Mary Stevens

Staff: Julie Curry, Barb Khal, Marion Kresse, Kelly Schulte, Lisa Sharp,

Susan White

Excused: Carrie Sodders

Approval of previous minutes

Topics discussed A motion to approve the June 11, 2008 minutes was entered by LauraBelle and Kelly. The minutes of the June 11, 2008, Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

The table below identifies the topics and discussion leader.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Lead Agency/Signatory Update	LauraBelle, Julie, Brian, Marion,
	Jeff, Kelly
Policy Discussion	Marion, Julie
2008-09 Calendar Development	Lisa, Troy, Kelly

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Lead Agency Update

- Julie informed the Committee of an ICN scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2008, from 9:00-10:30am concerning the IFSP redesign.
- Iowa received notice in June that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the U.S. Department of Education had determined both Iowa Part B (Special Education) and Part C (Early ACCESS) had "Met Requirements" in implementing the requirements and purposes Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the highest rank achievable. Twenty states in Part C and 14 states in Part B (out of 60 states and territories) received the high rank.
- On Monday, May 5, 2008, Shelley Ackermann attended the 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Consortium meeting at the United Way Building to discuss informal concerns. The 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative includes referral and follow up systems between primary care providers and child health agencies. It was proposed that the Title V Child Health Care Coordinators collect data regarding this issue using an Early ACCESS (EA) Occurrence Report, a form adapted from the *hawk-i* Occurrence Reports. Coordinators were also provided with a map of Iowa's AEAs as regional grantees for Part C, contact information for each AEA, and contact information for Julie Curry as state coordinator for Early ACCESS.
- Part B and C leaders from all ten Area Education Agencies (AEAs) gathered June 17-18th in Johnston for a two-day retreat hosted by the Department of Education. Director Judy Jeffrey commended the AEAs and the two Department Bureaus in achieving a "Meets Requirements" OSEP Determination. Teams with the support of DE consultants analyzed their data and made plans to improve performance on priority indicators (e.g. did not meet the target). Plans are due August 1st to the Lead Agency.
- Iowa's Family Centered Services: Guiding Principles and Practices for Delivery of Family Centered Services brochure continues to be widely respected and distributed in early childhood programs. The Department of Education recently received emails from a national early childhood technical assistance center and North Carolina that provided personal testimony to its integrity and usefulness.
- Progress continues in creating one procedure manual that all AEAs will adopt. The Part C Procedures Manual Committee with AEA and Department of Education (DE) members are making final edits to the 43 page document before it goes for final review and approval and are formulating plans for training. Implementation will start July 1, 2009. The document will be finalized by January, so training will be conducted in 2009 before full implementation occurs.

Public Health Update

A Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC) training was completed and a total of 86 services providers were trained this year! Vision Screening Training was completed and a DVD will be sent to all IDPH SC's that did not attend ICN and All CHSC SC's and 10 copies to each AEA

Nutrition Screening Training Completed and a DVD will be sent to all Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) SC's and 10 copies to each AEA. Evaluation forms will be sent to DE and IDPH will process Certificates of Completion and track participants.

- The 2008-2009 Empowerment funds application outlines three highquality, research-based professional development activities for Early Care and Health Education (ECHE) personnel that will positively impact outcomes for children. IDPH developed a proposal based on the three needs identified below:
 - 1. Evaluation Tool Consistency
 - 2. Developmental Screening
 - 3. Medical or Health Related Focused Training
- Efforts are needed to improve consistency in the EA evaluation process. This project seeks to improve quality of service provision for families of infants and toddlers by increasing the interagency pool of service providers by providing training to administer a global developmental evaluation tool, specifically the Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC) tool.
- There is a need for a statewide training plan on an evidence-based screening tool to increase the quality of EA referrals to work to reduce the gap between those served by EA and those who would meet eligibility requirements and benefit from services that are not referred to EA. This project will provide training to ECHE providers on a universal, social and emotional developmental screening tool in order to increase the quality of EA referrals. Iowa will partner with the Enhancing Developmentally Oriented Primary Care Project (EDOPC), a successful Illinois project, and tailor capacity building strategies to Iowa's needs. This project will create a pool of trainers across the state and provide training to EA referral sources.
- ECHE direct service providers require continuing education to assure practice keeps up with research. This project will provide a learning opportunity in health related issues that impact the children and families they serve. The training will increase service provider knowledge on the effects of perinatal depression and drug exposure on child development.

CHSC Update

- Debra Waldron, MD, MPH has accepted the position of Co-Director and Chief Medical Officer of CHSC. Dr. Waldron will work with CHSC 0.4 FTE and 0.2 as the chief office in public health and will fulfill clinical responsibilities within the UIHC Department of Pediatrics as Clinical Associate Professor with her remaining 0.4 FTE.
- CHSC has begun a campaign to makes its Birth-Five Services more well-known to stakeholders throughout Iowa. The first phase of the campaign is targeting tertiary health care centers, including neonatal and pediatric intensive care and high-risk infant follow-up staff.
- Carol Schlader has been hired to provide nurse practitioner services at CHSC Birth to Five clinics in counties served by the Mason City CHSC regional center.
- Registered Dietitians are now fully trained, referrals have increased from 6 months ago, but we have the capacity to handle more referrals than we are currently receiving.

DHS Update

- Recent floods in Iowa directly impacted many childcare providers. DHS
 childcare staff has been working with providers and families to minimize
 disruption in care.
- The Mental Health Division has applied to FEMA for emergency funds to hire additional mental health providers to respond to the psychological trauma caused by the flooding.
- During the last legislative session DHS was directed to "review the processes for the drug testing of persons responsible for the care of a child in child abuse cases to evaluate the effectiveness of the testing..." When this report becomes available it will be analyzed to determine if any changes should be made that would assure that children who have been exposed to illegal substances are identified.
- The Smoke Free Air Act prohibits smoking in childcare development homes. This means that care providers should not be smoking in their homes that are use to provide childcare or in the vehicles they use transport children.

Council Appointees

- The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the EA Council beginning September 18, 2008.
 - 1. Beth Troutman, Psychologist, University of Iowa
 - 2. Michael Acarregui, Director, High Risk Infant Follow-up Program, University of Iowa
 - 3. Stacy Kramer, parent from Hawarden
 - 4. Joann Stone, Attorney from Wells Fargo
 - 5. Nansi Woods, Ask Resource Center
 - 6. Sara Freiberg, parent from Sgt. Bluff

Policy Discussion

Informal System Concerns

- The Department of Education, as the Lead Agency for Early ACCESS, is committed to helping resolve concerns quickly and at the most informal level possible. In order to facilitate the prompt resolution of stakeholder concerns the Early ACCESS executive committee has approved the attached procedures and has designated a staff member to be responsible to implement these procedures.
- A brief summary of the procedure: A concerned Early ACCESS partner/stakeholder places a call to the Early ACCESS State Office at (515) 281-3021 and is connected to an Early ACCESS state staff. That staff member will collect, document and follow up with the individual who raised the issue. The State Coordinator will decide who should be assigned to investigate the problem and if possible help resolve it. State staff members will document what was done to resolve the issue and share the outcome with the party who had the original concern.

Medicaid

Dann Stevens, the DE Medicaid consultant has taken another position. The Executive Committee will have Sally Nadolsky attend the September 10 meeting to go over the Medicaid issues.

2008-09 Calendar Development

- The Executive Committee Meetings for the year 2008-09 will be held at the Jesse Parker Building, Starkweather Conference Room, located on the 1st floor. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10.
- The October 8th meeting has been cancelled and there will be a meeting on Nov. 12th instead.
- Troy and Kelly discussed some ideas for the Orientation for new Council members for September 18. Possibilities would include: sharing goals of the Executive Committee, summaries from the Lead Agency and Signatory Partners, and Family/children stories.

Actions

No actions were taken during this Committee meeting.

Next meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2008 2:00-4:30 pm

Jesse Parker Building, Starkweather Conference Room